

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 April 2003 (03.04.2003)

(10) International Publication Number
PCT WO 03/027431 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **E21B 43/26,**
C09K 3/00

(21) International Application Number: **PCT/US02/30202**

(22) International Filing Date:
24 September 2002 (24.09.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/325,071 26 September 2001 (26.09.2001) US
60/340,224 7 December 2001 (07.12.2001) US

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU,

CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH,
GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC,
LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW,
MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG,
SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN,
YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): European patent (AT, BE,
BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT,
LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i)) for all des-
ignations

Published:

— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
19 June 2003

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 03/027431 A3

(54) Title: **METHOD AND MATERIALS FOR HYDRAULIC FRACTURING OF WELLS**

(57) Abstract: Hydraulic fracturing of wells by injecting a degradable polymer phase as a fracturing fluid is provided. Composition and degree of polymerization of the degradable polymer and the selection of additives may be varied to adjust the viscosity, degradation time and other properties of the fracturing fluid. Viscous degradable fluid or pellets of degradable polymer may be placed in a wellbore as an internal phase in a low viscosity carrier fluid. A polymer-continuous liquid phase may be formed at a selected location in the wellbore, usually near perforations, before the polymer phase is pressured into a formation to form a hydraulic fracture.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/30202

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : E21B 43/26; C09K 3/00 US CL : 166/308; 507/209, 219, 221, 922, 924 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC																	
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 166/308; 507/209, 219, 221, 922, 924 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EAST																	
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category *</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 5,699,860 A (GRUNDMANN) 23 December 1997 (23.12.1997), Example 1 and column 4, lines 22-27.</td> <td>24, 25, 30-32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 5,439,059 A (HARRIS et al) 08 August 1995 (08.08.1995), column 6, lines 39-45.</td> <td>1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 16, 17, 21-23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 4,417,989 A (HUNTER) 29 November 1983 (29.11.1983), column 6, lines 36-47.</td> <td>24, 25, 30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>US 4,715,967 A (BELLIS et al) 29 December 1987 (29.12.1987) see claims.</td> <td>1-23</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	US 5,699,860 A (GRUNDMANN) 23 December 1997 (23.12.1997), Example 1 and column 4, lines 22-27.	24, 25, 30-32	X	US 5,439,059 A (HARRIS et al) 08 August 1995 (08.08.1995), column 6, lines 39-45.	1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 16, 17, 21-23	X	US 4,417,989 A (HUNTER) 29 November 1983 (29.11.1983), column 6, lines 36-47.	24, 25, 30	A	US 4,715,967 A (BELLIS et al) 29 December 1987 (29.12.1987) see claims.	1-23
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 10 March 2003 (10.03.2003)		Date of mailing of the international search report 07 APR 2003															
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